2020-2021 Annual Report

The 39th Annual Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair

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GVRSF 2021 – A Recap

The Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair (GVRSF) provides a vital forum for students to showcase their work and network with other students and scientists. Our Organizing Committee was determined to not allow the Covid-19 Pandemic to deprive students of this opportunity in 2021, while still ensuring the health and safety of our students, volunteers and committee members.

From March 2 to April 14, 2021 we hosted the first Virtual Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair, with students from the cancelled 2020 GVRSF also eligible to participate. Hard work and dedication by students, teachers, parents and mentors resulted in 132 projects (164 students) registering for the 2021 Virtual Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair. These projects represent 38 schools from Vancouver, Burnaby, Coquitlam, Richmond, Port Moody, Port Coquitlam, New Westminster, North Vancouver and West Vancouver.

Partnerships with Youth Science Canada and ProjectBoard created a virtual space within which students could showcase their work. Our judging committee pioneered the use of the interactive video conferencing platform Airmeet for science fairs. This platform closely replicated the interactive “in-person” judging sessions for both students and judges. Over 200 judges evaluated these projects over a 20-day period, culminating with the awarding of divisional awards, specials awards, scholarships and grand awards.

We are thankful for the continuing support of our sponsors, without whom the GVRSF would not be possible. We look forward to putting on another successful GVRSF in 2022.

Ceddy Nash, Chair

About the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair (GVRSF)

The Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair pivoted to a Virtual Fair in 2021, but hopes to return to an in-person event in 2022 with a 3-day science fair that:

- Is open to over 100,000 students in grades 7 to 12 attending public, independent, private and home schools, in 10 school districts in the Lower Mainland
- Hosts 300+ students who are keen and invested in today's scientific and technological developments
- Provides $45,000+ in cash, prizes, trips and scholarship awards
- Offers student and educator workshops, research lab tours, and interactive student activities
- Is hosted at the AMS Student Nest at the University of British Columbia (UBC). UBC has generously hosted the GVRSF since 1993.

Our Mission

To encourage youth to conduct research and experimentation in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

The Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair Society

The GVRSF Society is a registered charity and non-profit organization (BN: 832888564RR0001) run by a diverse group of dedicated volunteers passionate about education in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).

Most of our members are teachers, university professors, former science fair students, science professionals and educators. The list of committee members on the amazing volunteer team that put on the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair can be found on our website (http://www.gvrsf.ca).

Passionate about STEAM education? We welcome you to join our team, email us at Chair@gvrsf.ca!

Why Science Fairs?

The fair provides a platform for the students to showcase their work and interact with like-minded students, academics, and industry professionals, building and strengthening tomorrow's scientific community.

Science fair projects provide a hands-on approach to science that applies theory to practice, and teaches students the values of hypothesis based tests, independent thinking, and creative problem-solving to prepare them for an increasingly complex world.

Students leave the fair with new knowledge, new friends, and an increased interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics!

Virtual Canada-Wide Science Fair

The top award from the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair is to be selected to be part of Team GVRSF and participate in the Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF). Our sponsors support 17 students to attend this event, which this year was hosted virtually by Ottawa, Ontario from May 17-21, 2021. The event featured 375 finalists from across Canada with 338 projects. Team GVRSF enjoyed virtual tours of Carleton University, a STEM Expo, three days of judging, public viewing and social activities. This opportunity to present their projects on the national stage and meet students from all over Canada and internationally, has proved to be a critically enriching experience.

Ethan Chase - Prince of Wales Secondary School
Alexa Foster - RM Grauer Elementary
Carson Dalpke - Kerrisdale Elementary
Tara Zhan - David Thompson Secondary School
Veronica Guo - York House School
Matthew Moi - David Thompson Secondary School
Jonathan Leung - Lord Byng Secondary School
Henry Zhao - Collingwood School
Ethan Chan - St John's School
Darren Wang - Prince of Wales Secondary School
Maya Honda-Granirer - Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School
Wendy Fang - Moscrop Secondary School
Gabbie Lee - Prince of Wales Secondary School
Justin Du - David Thompson Secondary School
Catherine Diyakonov - Lord Byng Secondary School
Viduni Siriwardana - David Thompson Secondary School
Jing Quan Peng - David Thompson Secondary School

The Team brought home numerous awards and prizes, including 5 Gold Medals, 5 Silver Medals, 5 Bronze Medals and 9 Special Awards. These prizes includes $15,000 in cash prizes or equivalent and $80,000 in scholarships!

A full list of the awards is available online at http://www.gvrsf.ca.

Beyond the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair

Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair

Six projects were selected to represent Canada at the virtual 2021 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) from May 16-21, 2021. Founded in 1950, the ISEF features over 1500 students from 70 countries. Three of the six projects representing Canada were from the Greater Vancouver Region - Rowan Ross and William Li (Burnaby North Secondary), Angela Zhou (Magee Secondary School) and Tienlan Sun (Eric Hamber Secondary School). Tienlan placed First in the Translational Medicine Category for his project *TeleAEye: Low-Cost Automated Eye Disease Diagnosis Using a Novel Smartphone Fundus Camera With AI*. William and Rowan placed fourth in the Earth and Environmental Sciences Category for their project *A Novel Approach to Bio-Friendly Microplastic Extraction with Ascidians*.

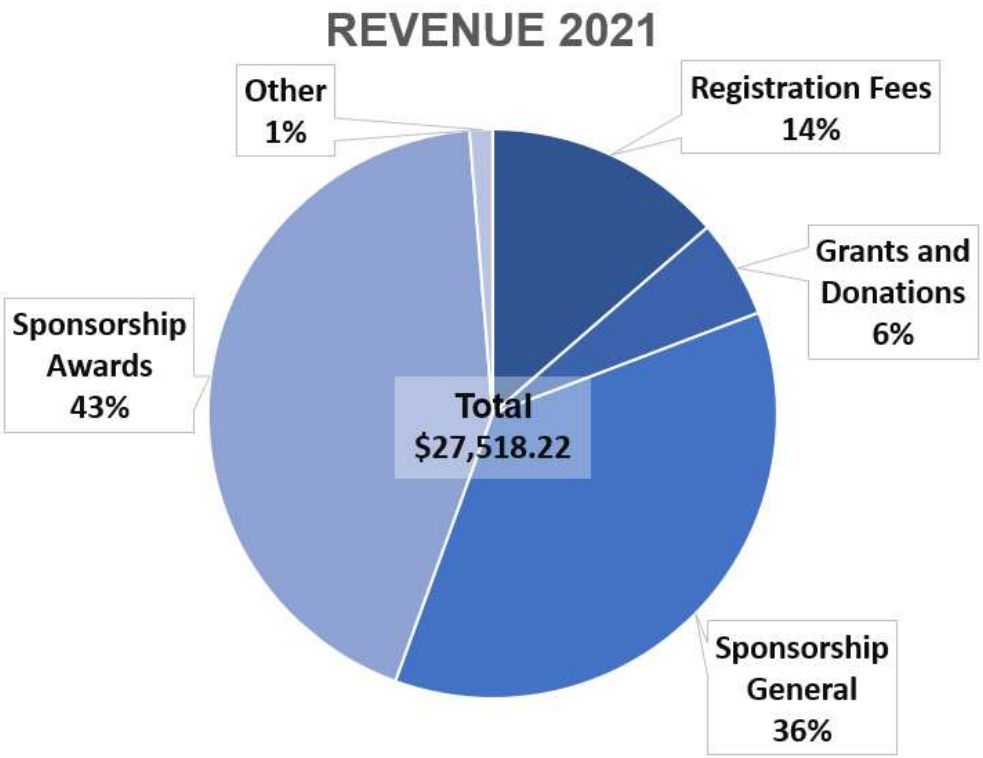
Schulich Leader Scholarship

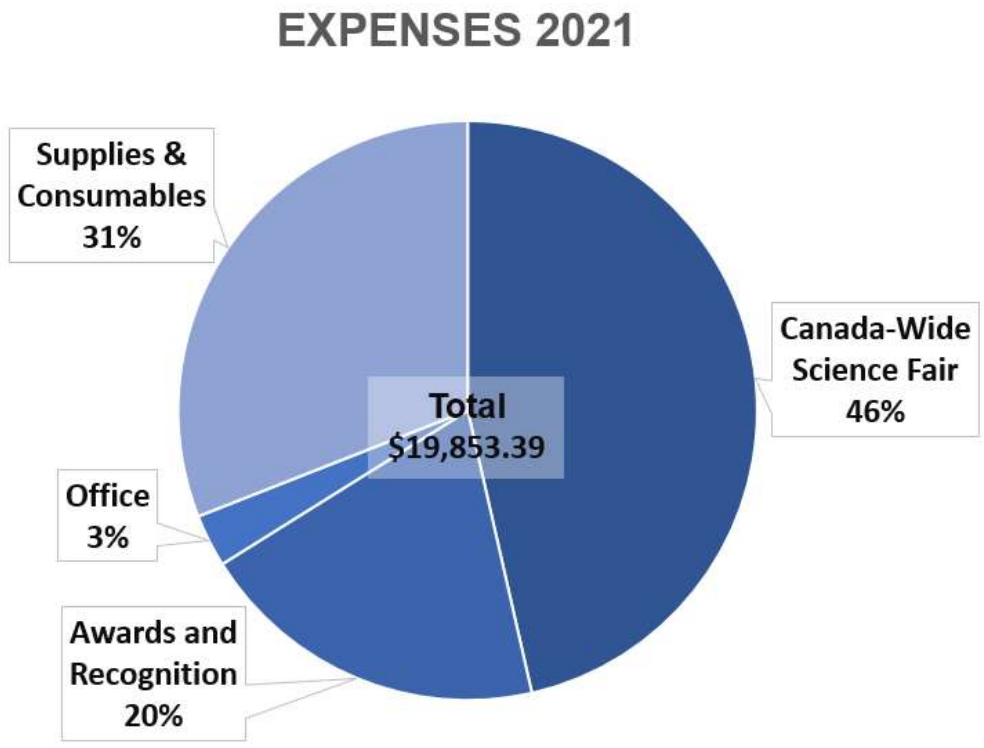
GVRSF alumni Mohammed Al-Seragi from Britannia Secondary School (Team GVRSF 2018) and Jay Botham from Prince of Wales Secondary School (Team GVRSF 2017) were both selected as Schulich Leader Scholarship recipients (valued at $80,000-$100,000). Jay will attend McMaster University while Mohammed will attend UBC in Fall 2021.

TD Canada Trust Community Leadership Scholarship

Each year TD selects young Canadians from across the country who have made a meaningful and lasting difference in their communities to receive one of their Community Scholarships, valued at $70,000. The 2021 winners include GVRSF alumna Claire Scrimini (Burnaby North Secondary School), who with her sister Vanessa has twice represented the Greater Vancouver Region at the Canada-Wide Science Fair, and also represented Canada at the Taiwan International Science Fair.

Financial Summary





In-Kind Support

UBC Faculty of Science provided University Scholarships totaling $12000.

Note

Due to COVID-19, Virtual Fairs were held for both the 2021 Greater Vancouver and 2021 Canada-Wide Science Fairs.

Thank You to our Sponsors and Supporters

Join us for the 40th GVRSF on April 7-9, 2022!

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